Why dogs have no names (ed tc m/m w/tones).................................................................2
Why dogs have no names (ed tc m/m w/tones)

ùtén tûmè cê, by Kaba Camara (ka)

Note: There are some unusual pronoun agreement patterns, singular and plural seem to be interchangeable in places (jd agrees)

tên tûmè cê
story dog def
The story of a dog.

à tôpî?
à cáp-î
1sg.sm start-i
Am I to start?

awa, abèn ace, pè hele mi pale a huŋ yom ten
áwâ à-bèn à-cê pè yél-yè mí
okay ncm-old ncm-def pro call-stat 1sg
All right, elders, they called me for gossip

pálè à hùŋ yóm tén
say 1sg come agree story
It is said I come agreed (to tell) a story.

kôncî, kôncî âten cê kô hi yom ki.
kôncî kôncî ú-tên cê kô hî yóm ki
but but ncm-story def pro lpl tell now
but- but it is a story that we are telling.

lô fô ŋò yomò. nya ki kaba.
lô fô ŋô yóm-ô ṅ-yâ kî kàbà
if must pro tell-ev emph-1sg here Kaba
If it must be told, here is Kaba.

nlô pè kom mi ka.
ŋ-lô pè kôm mî kà
emph-pro pro bear me here
This is where someone gave birth to me here.

a gbendi sôto tînen itôy ñôl nuŋ wâŋ ka ki.
à gbèn-di sôto ti-nên í-tôŋ-î-nyôl-nuŋ-wâŋ kàkî
1sg.sm finish-cmp get ncm-year ncm-twenty-ncm-four-and-ten here now
I am fifty (actually says 'ninety!') years old.

awa, kol nlöye.
áwâ kôl ń-lô ye
Okay, there.
All right, there it is.

Awa, a ka gbẹntdi tume ce yo,
awá à ká gbẹnt-dì tùmè cè yó
okay 1sg.sm past catch-cmp dog def prt.emph
Ok, I caught the dog.

tume ce nwọ kom, ntoe lay?
tùmè cè ǹ-wọ kóm ǹ tọ̀c lá-í
dog def emph-3sg bear 2sg hear it q
The dog gave birth, do you hear?

ọ komdi apọm agbér.
ù kóm-dì à-pòmò à-gbér
3sg bear-cmp ncm-child ncm-a lot/many
It bore many puppies.

nlọ waŋ ce kol haŋ,
ǹ-lọ ọ̀ hùn cè kól hàáán
emph-pro 3pl come cop there until
It’s there they are until

pale ali semiyẹ leli,
pálé àlì sém-i-yé lèlì
say for stand-cs-stat name
they say (the time) for giving names

fọ ọna tun sikuŋ
fọ ọ̀ na tún sǐ-kùlùn
must 3pl search ncm-goat
they must look for goats (for the sacrifice).

afo nce kọẹnọ ko huŋ foni ko tun sikuŋ,
ù-fó ì-ẹ nẹ̀ kọ̀nọ̀ kọ̀ hùn fó-n
ncm-go.out ncm.def dem go come go.out-mid
That search, it comes to go out
tc: weird agreement for ‘search’

ì kọ tun sǐ-kùlùn
sm go search ncm-goat
to go looking for goats,

ọ tun, ọ tun, ọ tun, ọ ken, ọ sẹtẹn.
ù tún ù tún ù tún ù kẹ-ẹn ù sọt-ẹn
3sg search 3sg search 3sg search 3sg see-neg 3sg get-neg
he looked, he looked, he looked, he didn't see any and he didn't get any.
When he came,

the dog(s) had finished growing (they had become mature).

They say "Ok," they say "Ok, ok, the puppies are here.

Every one takes their name. ?

Okay, they have taken their names

and they say "You, go give it a name."

Okay, the dogs got their names there.

This is why dogs don't have names

Unless you take the one you are able to take,

mọ wọ bo yọki,
mò wò bó yòk
2sg 3sg can bring
you can give it (a name).

bólọ ọ kọ sótọ lel. ọdọye, ọtẹn bul kọye.
bólọ ụ kọ sótọ lélé ụ-lọ-ẹ ụ-tẹn bùl kọ yẹ
and 3sg go get name emph-loc-prt nem-story one pro rel
and he gets a name. That’s it, that’s one (the first) story.